### **3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL**

002 - LESSON – Sunday - July 6, 2025

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## THE QUARTERS LESSON: EXODUS

## THIS WEEKS LESSON: THE BURING BUSH

MEMORY TEXT: Exodus 3:7-8 (NKJV) "(7) And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. (8) So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites."

God call to us will often change the direction of our lives. However, if we follow that call, then we discover that God's path is always the best route for us. However, sometimes—at first—it isn't easy to accept God's call.

Such is the case for Moses and his call by God, which specifically began at the encounter with the Lord at the burning bush. Although Moses may or may not have known about the laws of combustion, he knew that what he was seeing was a miracle, and it certainly caught his attention. No question, the Lord was calling him to a specific task. The issue was: Would he answer the call, regardless of the radical new change in his life that this call would bring? At first, he was not very receptive to it.

## Sunday: THE BURNING BUSH

After Moses fled to Midian, he had a relatively easy life. He married, had two sons, Gershom and Eliezer *(Exod. 18:3, 4)*, and was part of the extended family of Jethro, his father-in-law and priest in Midian. He spent 40 relaxed years being a shepherd, like David *(2 Sam. 7:8)*, enjoying God's presence, especially as revealed in nature.

Exodus 3:1-6 (NKJV) "(1) Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. (2) And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. (3) Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." (4) So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." (5) Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." (6) Moreover He

# said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God."

- A silent, but persistent power, drew Moses to an unfamiliar location.
- Although <u>unknown</u> to <u>man</u>—this place was <u>chosen</u> by <u>God</u>.
- This mountain became the place where a <u>finite</u> man met the <u>Infinite</u> God.
- You see, the mountain of God prepares us for the valley of humanity.

(Exodus 3:2 NKJV) "And the <u>Angel of the LORD</u> appeared to him in a <u>flame of fire from</u> <u>the midst of a bush</u>. So he looked, and behold, <u>the bush was burning with fire, but the</u> <u>bush was not consumed</u>."

Moses was captured by an extraordinary display. It was not the <u>burning of the bush</u> that captured his attention, but the <u>spectacle that the bush was not consumed</u>.

- The burning bush became a <u>symbolic revelation</u> of the power of God.
- Its <u>unattractive nature</u> was a <u>preview</u> of <u>how</u> Jesus would be revealed.

(Isaiah 53:2, 3 NKJV) "For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a <u>root</u> <u>out of dry ground</u>. He has <u>no form or comeliness</u>; and when we see Him, <u>there is no</u> <u>beauty that we should desire Him</u>. (3) He is <u>despised and rejected by men</u>, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."

Desire of Ages, p. 23.2: "God's glory was subdued, and His majesty veiled, that the weak vision of finite men might behold it...His glory was veiled, His greatness and majesty were hidden, that He might draw near to sorrowful, tempted men."

EMP: God used <u>an ordinary bush</u> to reveal an <u>Extraordinary God</u>. The Bible says, "The <u>Angel of the Lord</u> appeared." "Yeh-ho-vaw" (Self Existent One)

EMP: The <u>simplicity of the bush</u>, does not equal <u>a simple God</u>.

MOD: Because there is no other god, like Almighty God.

(Isaiah 46:9 NKJV) "Remember the former things of old, For I *am* God, and *there is* no other; *I am* God, and *there is* none like Me."—

MOD: When Moses investigated the Bush, and the Bush investigated Moses. God's presence and majesty was revealed through the Burning Bush.

(Exodus 3:3–4 NKJV) "Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why <u>the bush does not burn</u>." (4) So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, <u>God called to him from the midst of the bush and said</u>, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

EMP: Sometimes God <u>shows up</u> in the <u>most unusual ways</u>, through the <u>most</u> <u>unpredictable circumstances</u>. The TIMING of the event is <u>often overlooked</u>. He shows up for the same reason as He did for Moses. God was preparing Moses, raised <u>in Egyptian</u>, to <u>rescue His people</u> from the control of Egypt.

EMP: God <u>separated Moses from his extravagant past</u> to prepare him for God's <u>glorious</u> <u>future</u>. "Leave the palaces of Egypt, for the plains of Midian."

- Moses was raised in courts of Egypt.
- Educated in the schools of Egypt.
- Qualified as General in the Egyptian army.
- Moses was <u>qualified</u> for worldly honor, but <u>unqualified</u> for God's Work.
- God chose the Midian plains to train Moses as a shepherd of <u>literal sheep</u>, so <u>he</u> <u>could be prepared</u> to be a shepherd of <u>spiritual sheep</u>.

MOD: When we <u>respond</u> to God's call, He will orchestrate our journey. Psalm 37:23 (NKJV) "The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way."

The Lord presented Himself to Moses as "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (*Exod. 3:6*). The Lord had promised these patriarchs that their descendants would inherit Canaan, a promise Moses surely knew about. Thus, even before saying it, God was already opening the way for Moses to know what was coming and what crucial role he was to play.

Moses needed 80 years before God deemed him ready for his task. What might this truth teach us about patience?